

MAY 1948

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DOS review completed

GENERAL

1. US-Soviet exchange of notes -- US Embassy Moscow reports that the TASS release of the US-Soviet exchange of notes has been effective from the Soviet point of view in relieving public apprehension in the USSR. According to the Embassy, the population apparently feels that the Soviet Government was "strong enough" to make the US ask for the settlement of outstanding differences. The Embassy suggests that this reaction may be typical of world public opinion and that the US should "straighten the record" by the release of appropriate official declarations and background material designed to clarify the reasons prompting the US aide-memoire.

US Ambassador Douglas in London reports that Foreign Secretary Bevin has expressed the view that the US-Soviet exchange of notes will have a demoralizing effect in western Europe, may create difficulties for the present government in France, and will probably raise the Greek issue again in a form difficult to meet. Bevin interprets the "unexpected move" by the US as a softening, if not a reversal, of US policy at an inopportune moment, and he fears that the note may therefore have "an unfortunate effect on the implementation of the Brussels pact."

US Ambassador Caffery reports that French Foreign Minister Bidault expressed surprise upon hearing of the US-Soviet exchange of notes and wishes urgently to know what effect the notes will have on the discussions on Germany and on US conversations concerning the possibility of military cooperation and implementation of the Brussels pact.

Ex-Premier Spaak of Belgium has expressed the view to Caffery that although Molotov's note is not at all satisfactory, its radio publication indicates that the recent US policy of firmness is bearing fruit. Spaak believes that several months ago Molotov would either have replied much more objectionably or not at all. Spaak fears, however, that the democratic powers will now believe that the USSR has changed its methods, and that they can accordingly "take it easy."

Document No. 036

State Dept. declassification &
release instructions on file

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

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TOP SECRETAuth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
DDA REG. 77/1763Date: 14 MAR 1978 By:

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The Department of State has instructed US Embassies Paris and London to inform both Bidault and Bevin that the US note to the USSR was in no way an invitation or a proposal for meetings or discussions and that its only purpose was to set the record straight and to make clear that the US had never closed the door to any direct discussions. The Department adds that this exchange of notes has no bearing on the German talks in London or on US support for the Brussels pact countries.

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